



#24/Ampt
12/28/01
Butler

PATENT
Ser. No. 09/066,168
Atty. Docket No. 10089/4

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS : Mikio KATSUBE, et al.
SERIAL NO. : 09/066,168
FILED : April 24, 1998
FOR : PERMSELECTIVE MEMBRANE MODULE
GROUP ART UNIT : 1723
EXAMINER : A. Fortuna

RECEIVED
DEC 12 2001
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

S I R:

In response to the Office Action dated September 11, 2001, the Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendment and response, and reconsideration of the above-identified application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following new claims 3 and 4:

3. (New) A permselective membrane module comprising i) two permselective membrane elements formed of hollow fibers arranged substantially in parallel and bundled together and ii) a container, the two elements being arranged in the container longitudinally of the hollow fibers,

wherein the respective elements comprise i) a feed tube disposed longitudinally of the hollow fibers and ii) a hollow fiber bundle covering the outer surface of the feed tube, the feed tube having a number of holes therein, and the hollow fibers having one end closed and the other end opened,

wherein the feed tubes of the two elements communicate with each other via a